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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. GREEK GOOD NEIGHBOR EFFORT: MIXED RESULTS

EMBASSY ATHENS REPORTS THAT GREEK EFFORTS AT MULTILATERAL COOPERATION IN THE BALKANS HAVE STALLED. BULGARIA HAS YET TO RESPOND TO GREEK PROPOSALS FOR PAN-BALKAN COOPERATION MADE A YEAR AGO, AND PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS' APPARENT ATTEMPT TO RESURRECT THEM WITH A SECRET LETTER TO ZHIVKOV IS EXPECTED TO MEET WITH CONTINUED MOSCOW-ORDERED BUL-
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GARIAN FOOT-DRAGGING.

THE GOG HAS DONE BETTER IN STRENGTHENING ITS BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH YUGOSLAVIA. TRADE AND PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE CONTACTS ARE BOOMING, AND THE GREEKS ARE WILLING TO PLEDGE HELP TO SEE YUGOSLAVIA'S COMMITMENT TO NON-ALIGNMENT MAINTAINED AFTER TITO. DEFENSE MINISTER AVEROFF RECENTLY TOLD

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HIS YUGOSLAV COUNTERPART THAT IN THE EVENT OF TROUBLE BELGRADE COULD COUNT ON ANYTHING IT NEEDED FROM GREECE EXCEPT TROOPS. FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS' VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA MAY WELL BE INTENDED TO BUTTRESS THAT COMMITMENT. (CONFIDENTIAL) ATHENS 232, 1/10.)

2. RIYADH: FAHMY LEAVES EARLY

THE OPENING SESSION OF THE RIYADH FOREIGN MINISTERS' CONFERENCE ON AID TO THE CONFRONTATION STATES WAS MARKED BY THE WALKOUT OF FOREIGN MINISTER FAHMY ONLY 45 MINUTES AFTER THE START OF THE CONFERENCE. EMBASSY JIDDA REPORTS LOCAL SPECULATION THAT FAHMY'S ABRUPT RETURN TO CAIRO WAS MEANT TO SIGNAL EGYPT'S DISPLEASURE WITH LOW LEVELS OF AID, STRINGS ATTACHED TO ITS USE, AND LATE ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS. THERE IS ALSO SPECULATION THAT EGYPT WANTS THE VENUE OF THE CONFERENCE SHIFTED TO CAIRO. (CONFIDENTIAL) JIDDA 194, 1/10.)

3. THAILAND LAUNCHES AIR ASSAULT ON SOUTHERN INSURGENTS

CONSULATE SONGKHLA REPORTS A MAJOR THAI CAMPAIGN TO SUPPRESS THE CONTINUING INSURGENCY BY COMMUNIST AND OTHER DISSIDENT FORCES IN THE SOUTHERN PROVINCES. ALTHOUGH PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS HAVE PRAISED THE RAIDS AND CLAIMED THE GOVERNMENT NOW HAS THE INSURGENTS ON THE RUN, RTG RELIANCE ON AIR STRIKES AND FORCED RESETTLEMENT COULD CREATE EVEN MORE REBEL SYMPATHIZERS. THE CONSULATE COMMENTS THAT LOCAL RESIDENTS ARE SKEPTICAL THAT THE OPERATION WILL HAVE ANY

LASTING EFFECT. MOREOVER, PLANTATION OWNERS ALONG THE MALAYSIAN BORDER ARE WORRIED THAT SUCCESSFUL OPERATIONS AGAINST THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF MALAYSIA COULD DESTROY THEIR ARRANGEMENTS FOR PROTECTION AGAINST BANDITS AND THE THAI POLICE. (CONFIDENTIAL) BANGKOK 525, 1/10.)

4. SINO-JAPANESE CONFLICT ON OIL SALES LOOMING?

CONSULATE GENERAL HONG KONG SEES THE POSSIBILITY OF A TRADE CONFRONTATION BETWEEN JAPAN AND THE PRC LOOMING AS PEKING TRIES TO SELL THE JAPANESE MORE OIL THAN THEY ARE WILLING TO BUY. ACCORDING TO INTELLIGENCE REPORTS, CHINA WILL SEEK TO INCREASE FOREIGN EXCHANGE EARNINGS AND NARROW ITS BILATERAL TRADE DEFICIT IN 1977 BY STEPPING UP EXPORTS OF CRUDE OIL TO JAPAN, WHILE JAPAN WILL ATTEMPT TO HOLD OIL IMPORTS TO RELATIVELY LOW 1976 LEVELS. DISPARATE TRADING POSITIONS ARE ALSO EXPECTED TO PRODUCE SIGNIFICANT PROBLEMS IN NEGOTIATIONS ON COAL, TEXTILES AND OTHER ITEMS. (SECRET) HONG KONG 184, 1/6.)

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